PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES AND PRIVACY

NSA protects the civil liberties and privacy rights of Americans while accomplishing important national security missions that are critical to keeping our warfighters, fellow Americans, and allies safe. Commitment to service, respect for the law, accountability, and transparency are paramount core values at NSA. The American people expect and deserve to hear what NSA is doing to protect civil liberties and privacy. We share as much information as possible with the public without jeopardizing mission capabilities.

Working at mission speed, NSA's Civil Liberties and Privacy Office (CLPO) ensures that privacy and civil liberties considerations remain a vital driver for NSA strategic decisions. CLPO reports directly to the Director of NSA and advises senior leadership on civil liberties and privacy protections for all NSA missions, programs, policies, and technologies. The Director of CLPO engages regularly with elected officials and staff in Congress, the Executive Branch (including the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board), and other federal agencies to explain NSA's privacy safeguards and implement recommended improvements.

NSA has a culture of compliance and respect for the law. Every NSA employee, both military and civilian, takes an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Mandatory training on protecting privacy and civil liberties is required for all personnel, and specialized training is required for personnel with access to sensitive data. Also, NSA uses technical safeguards in all of its operations. Compliance with all laws, regulations, and policies that govern our operations is the responsibility of every NSA employee, and is monitored by multiple organizations across NSA. In addition, NSA is subject to – and welcomes – rigorous external oversight by all three branches of the government.

While NSA works with our allies to share information and technology, NSA does not ask partners to do anything that we are not legally permitted to do. ■